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MARK K. JOHNSON
P.O. BOX 510644
NEW BERLIN, WI 53151-0644

In re Application of
David Lewis et al
Application No. 10/007,448
Filed: November 7, 2001
Attorney Docket No. Mirus.030.03

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: **DECISION ON PETITION**
: **UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)**
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This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed July 30, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §120 for the benefit of the prior-filed nonprovisional applications set forth in the amendment filed concurrently with the instant petition.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

¹ Any nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending applications or international applications designating the United States of America must contain or be amended to contain a reference (amendment to the first line of the specification following the title or in an application data sheet (ADS)) to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) or international application number and international filing date and indicating the relationship of the applications. Cross references to other related applications may be made when appropriate (see § 1.14).

The instant application was filed on November 7, 2001, and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition.

The reference to the prior-filed applications was not included in the manner specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) (i.e., in an ADS or in an amendment to the first sentence following the title of the specification) or filed within the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii).

The instant petition does not comply with item (1)

37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) requires that any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending nonprovisional applications must contain or be amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) and indicating the relationship of the applications. The relationship between the applications is whether the subject application is a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part of a prior-filed nonprovisional application. An example of a proper benefit claim is: "This application is a continuation of Application No. 10/---, filed---." A benefit claim that merely states: "This application claims the benefit of Application No. 10/---, filed---," does not comply with 37 CFR 1.72(a)(2)(i) since the proper relationship, which includes the type of continuing application, is not stated. Also, the status of each nonprovisional parent application (if it is patented or abandoned) should also be indicated, following the filing date of the parent nonprovisional application. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, 8th ed., August 2001), Section 201.11, Reference to First Application. The amendment filed July 30, 2004 is unclear. Petitioner does not indicate in the amendment filed with the instant petition whether benefit claim is being made to provisional Application No. 60/315,394 and 60/324,155. Also, the related applications need not be included in the amendment seeking benefit claims.

Accordingly, before the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) can be granted, a substitute amendment addressing the above matters, along with a renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), is required.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of address should be filed in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

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Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (703) 305-8859 .

Karen Creasy

Karen Creasy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

cc:

MARK K. JOHNSON
MIRUS
505 SOUTH ROSA ROAD
MADISON, WI 53719